

Gc
929.2
Ab3405
2042584

M. L.


REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

GEN

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 01201 1935



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2010 with funding from
Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center

HISTORY
OF THE
ABELL FAMILY
OF
BALTIMORE

1913

01 046

79 79719



A. S. Bell

ARUNAH SHEPHERDSON ABELL

FOUNDER OF THE SUN

2042584

A city, like an individual, possesses moral as well as physical characteristics. The individual, whatever the physical beauty may be, is of value to himself and the community, only in proportion to his moral development and strength. The same holds good in relation to the city. The force that moulds a community to high ideals and right thinking, the organization or individual that holds aloft before a community the flaming torch of education, patriotism, State loyalty, civic pride and municipal and individual right living, builds the city in far more gracious beauty and greatness than is ever attained by the rearing of stately buildings and the establishment of commercial institutions.

Baltimore is known as the "Monumental City," and her fairest monument is her leading newspaper, *The Sun*, the cornerstone of which was laid by Arunah Shepherdson Abell, and the building of which, to its present noble height, has been carried on by three generations of the Abell family. The history of *The Sun*, of Baltimore, Maryland, founded in 1837, by A. S. Abell, is so closely interwoven with the lives of the A. S. Abell family that the record of one is the biography of the other. A brief glance at the ancestry of the family of which the late A. S. Abell was the honored head in Baltimore, is essential to a clear understanding of the history of *The Sun*, and the importance of the family from whence sprung the paper's inspiration, its establishment and its successful development.

Arunah Shepherdson Abell, founder and owner of *The Sun*, was born in East Providence, Rhode Island, August 10, 1806, and died at his Baltimore residence, northwest corner Charles and Madison streets, April 19, 1888, in the eighty-second year of his age. Mr. Abell was of English descent, his paternal ancestors having been among the early settlers in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. He was sixth in descent from his colonial ancestor, Robert Abell, to whom a son was born during the voyage from

\$ 8.50 goodspeed Barberhop R May 15-1979 P 2010740

the old to the new world. The voyage was a long and stormy one, and owing to the safety of mother and child during these perils by sea, the babe was christened Preserved.

Preserved Abell settled at Rehoboth (now Seekonk), Rhode Island, and had a son, Joshua Abell, who had a son, Robert, named for his colonial ancestor. Robert Abell, son of Joshua, had a son, Caleb Abell, who became the father of Arunah Shepherdson Abell, founder of *The Sun*.

There is an ancient chair still in the possession of the Abell family, of which tradition relates that prior to the bloody and devastating war known by his name, King Philip, the Indian, frequently visited the home of Preserved Abell, and, as a mark of respect, was always offered this chair, which was the most comfortable in the house. When Indians set fire to the settlement at Seekonk in 1676, the savages brought the chair from the Abell residence that their chief might witness the conflagration with comfort. After the destruction of the settlement and the departure of King Philip from the scene, an Indian threw a fire-brand in the chair which consumed the seat, but only scorched the framework, leaving the massive piece of furniture practically intact.

Robert Abell, grandson of Preserved Abell and grandfather of Arunah Shepherdson Abell, served with distinction during the war of the American Revolution. Caleb Abell, son of Robert and father of Arunah Shepherdson Abell, was an officer during the war of 1812, and for more than thirty years after served his native town in various offices of public trust. He married Elona Shepherdson, daughter of Arunah Shepherdson, whose name has since been borne by three generations of the Abell family. She was a woman of high and noble character and of exceptional intelligence.

Arunah S. Abell was educated in his native town, and when fourteen years of age entered the business world as clerk in a firm dealing in West India commodities. His inclinations, however, turned strongly in literary directions. He resigned his clerkship in 1822, and became an apprentice in the office of the *Providence Patriot*, a Democratic journal, published by Jones & Wheeler, printers to the State and Federal government. When

he attained his majority, he obtained employment in Boston, and was soon promoted to the position of foreman of one of the best offices in that city. He was offered a government position in the Boston post-office under Democratic administration, but having chosen his career as a journalist, refused to consider any other vocation. A little later he removed to New York, bearing flattering letters of introduction to the foremost newspaper men of the metropolis. His residence in New York quickly resulted in his entering into partnership with two gentlemen, Azariah H. Simmons and William M. Swain, also printers like himself, to establish a daily penny paper. At this time New York already boasted several penny papers, while Philadelphia did not, and it was decided to establish the new enterprise in the latter city. Articles of association were drawn up February 29, 1836. The name first chosen for the new paper was *The Times*, but an ill fate had overtaken a preceding Philadelphia journal of that name, and the firm of Swain, Abell & Simmons abandoned the name first chosen for that of *The Public Ledger*, under which title the paper entered upon a long and prosperous career, which continues to the present time. The partners contributed an equal amount of money and their united energies to the undertaking, and cast superstition to the wind when the first number of *The Public Ledger*, appeared Friday, March 25, 1836.

Having seen the success of *The Ledger* fully established, Mr. Abell, in April, 1837, visited Baltimore, where all the newspapers published were known as "sixpennies." The year was not a financially encouraging one, and there were five newspaper competitors already established in the Baltimore field, yet Mr. Abell's business foresight incited him to make the venture of establishing a penny paper in Baltimore, and his partners agreed to support him if he would personally undertake the control of the enterprise. This he agreed to do, and upon May 17, 1837, the first number of *The Sun* was issued, and the broad and wise policy outlined that has been the paper's inspiration through succeeding years.

The policy of *The Sun*, as it has come to be generally termed, embraced the cardinal principles of independence, honesty and enterprise, controlled by a spirit of fairness and conservatism.

Its object, according to its founders' initial announcement, was to be: "The common good, without regard to sections, factions or parties, and for this object we shall labor without fear or partiality." How faithfully the founder and his descendants maintained this high ideal of journalism, the columns of *The Sun* have attested for nearly three-quarters of a century.

While the paper was the property of the three partners, Mr. Abell was from its very inception the sole manager, and the imprint of his strong, intelligent and fearless character was manifest throughout his life in the conduct of his journal. It was designed to voice the sentiment of the people, while endeavoring to guide their judgment aright, and, so far as possible, to carry out their will. The city and State, as well as neighboring States, soon realized that here was a newspaper which could neither be bought nor intimidated, with opinions based upon facts and judgment, with news collected by responsible workers, and the paper soon came to be relied upon as the voice of the people in the highest and best sense of the word. *The Sun* commenced its notable career with one reporter, but it was the pioneer in the field of giving regular local reports, and upon the first anniversary of its founding, May 17, 1838, *The Sun* had a circulation of 12,000 copies—a very large circulation for that day.

The first opportunity offered the paper for displaying the intense energy and initiative which characterized Mr. Abell's management, was President Van Buren's Message, of December, 1838. These messages usually reached Baltimore by mail, and appeared in leisurely fashion in supplementary newspaper issues. Mr. Abell had the message rushed to Baltimore from Washington by Canadian pony express, and brought with all possible speed to the office. In five minutes after its arrival, forty-nine compositors were at work upon it, and in two hours the first copy was printed in Baltimore and distributed to the public. The message thus appeared in *The Sun* two days in advance of its local newspaper competitors.

The Sun was successful from its initial publication. In three months its circulation had outstripped that of *The Public Ledger* after nine months' publication, and in a year *The Sun* had more than twice the circulation of the oldest established newspaper in

Baltimore. The first printing-office of the paper was at No. 21 Light street, near Mercer street, but this building soon became too contracted for the rapid development of the paper. On February 16, 1839, the office was removed to the southeast corner of Gay and Baltimore streets, and on December 22, 1850, Mr. Abell purchased the site upon which was erected the well-known "Sun Iron Building," the first iron-supported structure to be built in the United States.

The land upon which the notable "Sun Iron Building" was erected—the southeast corner of Baltimore and South streets—was occupied by six old brick buildings, four on Baltimore street and two on South street, that were purchased for less than \$50,000, and torn down to make way for the new structure. Those associated in its building were James Bogardus, of the firm of Bogardus & Hoppin, contractors; Mr. Hatfield, of New York, who designed the building, and Messrs. H. R. and J. Reynolds, to whom was intrusted the carpenter work and general superintendence. The iron work was done by Messrs. Adam Denmead & Brother, and Benjamin S. Benson, of Baltimore. The building was first occupied September 13, 1851. The structure had a front of fifty-six feet on Baltimore street and seventy-four feet on South street, with height of five well-pitched stories. The partnership between A. S. Abell, William M. Swain and Azariah H. Simmons was only dissolved by the death of the latter in 1855. *The Sun* property was sold December 22, 1860, to divide Mr. Simmons' estate, and was purchased by Mr. A. S. Abell in fee simple for \$80,000.

In 1864, Mr. Abell sold out his interest in *The Public Ledger*. He was now the sole proprietor of *The Sun*, to the development and success of which he bent his undivided interest, and to which he contributed with enthusiasm his truly remarkable gifts as organizer and manager. It was a life-work, which, for unswerving purpose and successful fulfillment, has no parallel in the journalism of the South. Initiative and conservatism were equally characteristic of Mr. Abell's personality, and this was shown, both in his development of *The Sun* and his relation to the city of his adoption. His conception of the mission of journalism was far above the ordinary plane of mere news circu-

lation, although his initiative in obtaining reliable news quickly, immediately placed his paper in the lead of other sources of news supply, both official and journalistic. He always cherished a high conception of his personal responsibility as newspaper editor and proprietor, and his influence was always directed against sensationalism, scandal and idle gossip. To make *The Sun* what he aspired it should be, was Mr. A. S. Abell's life-work, and his reward was his paper's acceptance by the people of the South as a political guide and a paper that uplifted and enlightened every home which it entered.

In his relations to the public, Mr. Abell proved himself a wise and disinterested adviser for good, and, in his relations to his employees, a just and impartial employer, appreciating and applauding good work, and comprehending from his own experience the practical limitations and difficulties of certain departments of labor.

An open mind made Mr. Abell a ready and earnest patron and promoter of mechanical enterprises and inventions. His firm was the first to purchase the rotary printing machine, the invention of Richard M. Hoe, of New York, which worked a revolution in the art of printing, and which invention had previously been rejected as impracticable by New York publishers. He gave substantial support to that marvel of modern times, the electric telegraph, and Mr. Abell was one of the incorporators of the first telegraph company organized. *The Sun* was one of the most enthusiastic advocates of the practicability of the new invention, and the first document of any length transmitted over the experimental line between Washington and Baltimore was President Tyler's Message, of May 11, 1846, which was telegraphed to and published in *The Sun*, with a degree of accuracy that excited general astonishment. *The Sun's* telegraphic copy of this message was reprinted by the Academy of Sciences at Paris, France, side by side with an authenticated transcript of the original.

The art of stereotyping, electric light, and many other mechanical improvements, were immediately recognized by Mr. Abell as important achievements and promptly applied to the conduct of his business. The submarine cable received his vigorous support,

and it was largely due to his efforts in the successful establishment of pony expresses for obtaining news promptly by European steamers and from the seat of war in Mexico, that the Associated Press service was established, which now supplies the leading papers throughout the country with news. He was also the first to introduce in Baltimore the carrier system of delivering newspapers, which has proved of such great convenience to city readers.

Mr. A. S. Abell, in conjunction with Mr. Craig, afterwards agent of the Associated Press of New York, organized an effective carrier pigeon express for the transmission of news between New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, and the birds were also carefully trained to carry news from incoming ships. From four hundred to five hundred pigeons were kept in a house on Hampstead Hill, near the old Maryland Hospital for the Insane, and this carrier service was regularly conducted, until the rapid flight of birds was superseded by the still more rapid transmission of news by telegraph. Even the short-lived Atlantic Cable of 1858 was pressed into service by this indefatigable gleaner of news, and transmitted a special dispatch to *The Sun*, this being the first news telegram from London over the Atlantic cable, received and made public in Baltimore.

In order to obtain the earliest foreign news, *The Sun* established relays of horses from Halifax to Annapolis, on the Bay of Fundy, Nova Scotia, a distance of one hundred and fifty miles. Thence the news was carried by steamer to Portland, Maine, from there by rail to Boston, and via New York and Philadelphia to Baltimore, the distance of about one thousand miles being covered in fifty hours. *The Sun* published news on the ships "Liberty" and "Cambria" twenty-four hours ahead of other sources of information, and was the only Baltimore paper that joined in the charter of the pilot boat "Romer" to run to Liverpool, and return with foreign news.

During the war with Mexico, when all interests were centered in that section, *The Sun* organized, exclusively for its own department, an overland express by means of ponies from New Orleans, independent of any co-operation with other papers. The trip

from New Orleans to Baltimore was made in six days by these carriers of war dispatches, and cost *The Sun* a thousand dollars a month; but it enabled the paper to publish pictures of Monterey and the army and the battlefield of Buena Vista, both before and after the battle, which would have been impossible under any other circumstances than those afforded by this extraordinary service from Pensacola. Throughout the Mexican war, *The Sun* supplied not only the public with news, but kept the government advised as well.

These expresses became a public necessity, after their advantage over other means of communication was proven, and several Northern papers then joined in profiting by the facilities thus afforded. *The Sun* was the first to announce, April 10, 1847, to President Polk and his Cabinet at Washington, the unconditional capitulation of Vera Cruz and the Castle of San Juan d'Ulloa. Even before the publication of this important news in the columns of *The Sun*, Mr. Abell's patriotism inspired him to send to the President a private telegraphic communication of the surrender of the Mexican city and castle. *The Sun's* pony express brought news of the victories at Contreras and Cherubusco fully twenty-four hours ahead of steamboats, railways, and even telegraph.

Another proof of the enterprise of the management of *The Sun* was given in 1876, when the paper united with the *New York Herald* and sent copies of the daily and weekly issues to the Pacific coast by Jarrett and Palmer's transcontinental train in eighty-four hours. Mr. Abell was an enthusiastic friend of Professor Morse when the latter was endeavoring to establish the telegraph. He used both his personal and journalistic influence to promote and develop this invention, and was instrumental in securing from Congress an appropriation of \$30,000 for the construction of a line between Washington and Baltimore, and supplied part of the money to build between Baltimore and Philadelphia the first line of the Magnetic Telegraph Company, which was organized March 15, 1845.

The *Weekly Sun* was first issued April 14, 1838, and continued an important adjunct to the daily edition, especially in rural districts, until 1904. Upon Saturday, February 6, 1904, the day

preceding the great conflagration of February 7 and 8, 1904, that enveloped the business portion of the city of Baltimore in a mantle of flame, and wiped the "Sun Iron Building" out of existence, the last issue of the *Weekly Sun* was published. It had been an important household paper in the annals of Baltimore journalism, and through it, on numerous occasions, prizes ranging from \$300 to \$1,200 had been won for stories entered in competition.

On December 19, 1864, the price of *The Sun* was advanced to two cents per single copy, and to twelve and one-half cents a week to subscribers receiving it by carrier.

In the year 1838, Mr. Abell married Mrs. Mary Fox Campbell, a young widow, daughter of John Fox, of Peekskill, New York. A pretty story is told that the founder of *The Sun* rescued the widow's tiny daughter, Rose Campbell, from being run over in the street. In this way he became acquainted with the child's mother, whose natural gratitude soon warmed into love. She was a lady greatly beloved by all who knew her, for her amiable and gracious womanliness and the wide charity of her nature. She bore her husband twelve children, nine of whom lived to reach man's and woman's estate. The children were: 1. Edwin Franklin Abell, married (first) Margaret Curley; (second) Elizabeth M. Laurenson. 2. George William Abell, married Jane Frances Webb, daughter of the late George Webb. 3. Walter Robert Abell, married (first) Sallie Sisson, daughter of the late Hugh Sisson; (second) Philomena, daughter of Henry Bogue. 4. Charles S. Abell, died unmarried, December 3, 1891. 5. Marie L. Abell, became a nun, and assumed the name of Mary Joseph. 6. Agnes Frances Abell, unmarried. 7. Annie F. Abell, married J. W. S. Brady. 8. Helen M. Abell, married L. Victor Baughman. 9. Margaret Abell, married John Irving Griffiss. 10. Arunah S. Abell, died in childhood. 11. Harry Abell, died in childhood. 12. Mary Abell, died in childhood. Mrs. Arunah S. Abell died in 1859.

The first residence of Mr. A. S. Abell in Baltimore was on Lee street, five doors west of Charles street, after which he resided at 42 North Front street. By 1851 the family had removed to 36 West Mulberry street, occupying one of the

spacious old-fashioned residences still standing, opposite the Enoch Pratt Central Library. By 1871, Mr. A. S. Abell and family were occupying what was then 83 Saratoga street, a picturesque terrace mansion, adjoining upon the east St. Paul's rectory. Here he was the neighbor for many years of the Right Rev. Dr. J. S. B. Hodges, who was Mr. Abell's warm personal friend, and officiated at the latter's funeral in 1888. The house was eventually torn down to permit the cutting through of Cathedral street to connect with Liberty street. From this dwelling Mr. Abell removed to the magnificent residence on the northwest corner of Charles and Madison streets, overlooking Monument Place.

On April 5, 1883, Mr. Abell had purchased from the Kremelberg estate this residence, known as 2 and 4 West Madison street, the frontage being sixty feet on Madison street, looking toward Washington Monument, with a depth on Charles street of one hundred and fifty feet. The house is a four-story marble and brick building, which included about twenty-five rooms, and a magnificent winding staircase in the center of the dwelling, which towers to the roof, and in itself gives an idea of the elaborateness of the structure. The house is directly opposite the University Club on Charles street, and was sold in September, 1907, by the Abell heirs, and for a consideration of \$106,000 to the Baltimore Club for its present club house.

In addition to his town residences, Mr. Abell owned several country estates, one of which was "Guilford," including about three hundred acres, in the immediate vicinity of "Homewood," where the Johns Hopkins University will shortly locate its great educational center.

In the early part of the nineteenth century the Guilford property belonged to Lieutenant-Colonel William McDonald, who commanded at North Point the Sixth Regiment, Maryland Infantry, and who was prominent in the affairs of Baltimore City. His son, also William McDonald, better known as "Billy" McDonald, was an enthusiastic turfman, and at "Guilford" was once stabled his renowned mare, "Flora Temple," at that time the fastest race-horse in the United States. The mare was housed at "Guilford" as befitted her financial value and brilliant record. Her stalls were kept in magnificent style as a suite

of four apartments—dining-room, bathroom, reception room, boudoir. Above her head was a stained-glass window with her portrait upon it, which bore the inscription, "Flora Temple, Queen of the Turf." It is said that her dashing owner was known to drive the mare up the wide entrance and through the marble halls of the palatial residence, which occupied one of the hills of the estate. The mansion, an American adaptation of Italian architecture, is imposing in size and rich in finish. The entrances are guarded by stone lions couchant—very beautiful ones—copies, it is said, of the lions of the Louvre. The frescoes on either side of the drive entrance depict bearded knights accoutred for conflict. The main hall is as wide as a driveway, and is paved with marble and lighted with stained-glass windows.

A solid walnut staircase, such as one sees in palaces abroad, rises with a magnificent sweep in a spiral ascent to the square turret that crowns the building. The drawing-room, library, billiard and reception rooms and great dining-room, all of which open on the main hall, are architecturally in keeping with the remainder of the house, and lead onto wide verandas, shadowed by magnolia trees, and curtained in spring with honeysuckle and the purple blossoms of wistaria vines. The property was sold by the Abell heirs in 1907, for \$1,000,000. Lake Guilford, one of the city reservoirs, is built upon a portion of land cut off from the property, and takes its name from the estate.

A second beautiful suburban estate belonging to Mr. A. S. Abell, and occupied for many years by his son, Edwin F. Abell, is "Woodbourne," which embraces some two hundred acres, located near Govans, Maryland. A third property belonging to him is "Litterluna," located in the Green Spring Valley.

Mr. Abell's personal appearance suggested dignity and reserve force. His height was medium, and his face in repose a trifle stern. His nature, however, was by no means stern, and his manners were genial, free from all affectation, and his personal friendship of the warmest character. He possessed a keen sense of humor, a vein of interesting reminiscence, and was a congenial companion for young or old. A man wholly without arrogance over his great achievements, he was regarded with ardent, reverential, but also cheerful and companionable love, by every member of his household.

Arunah S. Abell lived to celebrate the semi-centennial of the paper he had founded, upon which occasion announcement was made that upon that date the senior proprietor had associated with himself as copartners his sons, Edwin F. Abell, George W. Abell and Walter R. Abell. Grover Cleveland, then President of the United States, was among the notable people who sent personal telegrams of congratulation to Mr. Abell upon this happy occasion.

Mr. A. S. Abell's death, which occurred April 19, 1888, was regarded as a municipal calamity by the people of Baltimore. The flag upon the City Hall was placed at half-mast by Mayor Ferdinand C. Latrobe, an unusual tribute to one not occupying an official position, and 15,000 persons congregated at Greenmount Cemetery upon the day of his interment, as a final tribute of respect to his honored memory. The pallbearers were: Messrs. Hugh Sisson, Charles Webb, Professor Alan P. Smith, Robert Moore, Lewis M. Cole, Charles J. M. Gwinn, R. Q. Taylor, Meyer Stein, Colonel John Carroll Walsh, Robert Lawson, Enoch Pratt, Dr. John Morris, James M. Anderson and William H. Carpenter.

One of the rarest tributes paid to the memory of the founder of *The Sun*, was uttered by the late Judge William A. Fisher, who said of Mr. Abell: "He leaves a fortune which his children can receive without the sense that any part of it has been made by dishonorable methods, or from grinding the faces of the poor. He was a warm, generous and true man. He has largely benefited the city, and merits its gratitude. His newspaper will be a monument to his memory, as it has been creditable to him in his lifetime."

Mr. Abell numbered among lifelong friends such men as William T. Walters, who collected and owned Walters' Art Gallery; Enoch Pratt, whose advertisement of Pratt & Keath, for hardware, appeared in the first issue of *The Sun*; Charles J. M. Gwinn, who was Mr. Abell's lawyer; the Hon. John H. B. Latrobe, Frank B. Bennett, Hugh Sisson, Captain Augustus McLaughlin, Richard M. Hoe, Charles Webb; and among younger men of that period, Governor William Pinkney Whyte, Hon. James Hodges, Senator A. P. Gorman, and others. These

were among the men of Baltimore who mourned his death as the decease of a man of absolute integrity, a man of strong and untarnished hands, a thorough patriot and a good citizen.

The three surviving sons of the founder of *The Sun*—Edwin Franklin, George William and Walter Robert—became, at the death of their father, the sole proprietors and managers of the paper. Walter Robert Abell died January 3, 1891. On August 9, 1892, *The Sun* was incorporated as the A. S. Abell Company, with George William Abell as president and general manager. Upon his death, May 1, 1894, Edwin Franklin Abell became president of the company and general manager of *The Sun* until his death, February 28, 1904. Edwin F. Abell's second son, W. W. Abell, had long been associated with his father in the management of the paper, and became a member of the board of directors of the A. S. Abell Company on June 12, 1894. He was elected vice-president of the company, June 6, 1901, and was elected president of the company on June 21, 1904, which office he continued to hold until his resignation as president of the A. S. Abell Company on April 19, 1909.

From April 19, 1909, until January, 1910, *The Sun* was under the management of the vice-president, Charles S. Abell, son of George William Abell.

EDWIN FRANKLIN ABELL

It is a custom in monarchical countries to bestow upon great rulers some name, independent of august titles, which is indicative of the people's estimate of their characters. Were such an ancient custom followed in democratic America, Edwin Franklin Abell would bear among his fellow citizens of Baltimore, the name bestowed upon Christ's favorite disciple—that of "Well Beloved."

Edwin Franklin Abell, from May 1, 1894, president of the A. S. Abell Company, publishers of *The Sun*, and eldest of the twelve children of Arunah Shepherdson and Mary (Fox-Campbell) Abell, was born in Baltimore, Maryland, May 15, 1840, and died in the same city, February 28, 1904, at his residence, northeast corner of Charles and Preston streets. He was the eldest of the twelve children of the founder of *The Sun*, and his parents resided at the time of his birth on Lee street, at that time one of the prominent residential sections of the city. He was in the sixty-fourth year of his age, and with his decease passed away the last of the sons of A. S. Abell.

Edwin F. Abell was educated in the public schools of Baltimore and of Harford county, near Jerusalem Mills, and also attended Dalrymple's Old University School of Maryland, which was located on the south side of Mulberry street, at what is now the head of Cathedral street, and which has since been cut through to Saratoga street. His classmates in this school were many who afterwards became prominent men of Baltimore. When sixteen years of age, Mr. Abell entered the counting-room of *The Sun*, and from that time continued almost uninterruptedly his business association with the paper. Although always identified with the publishing of *The Sun*, he gave his attention more closely to the management of his father's extensive estate, and not until the death of his brother, George W. Abell, May 1, 1894, did he assume the direct control of the paper. With duties and responsibilities almost doubled by reason of his brother's death, he became the directing head of the paper's policies in national questions and local affairs. With what success his efforts were rewarded by the entire State is best indicated by the respect and



Edwin J. Abell

confidence with which *The Sun* is regarded in the thousands of homes it enters each day.

There has probably never lived a man occupying so commanding a position as did Mr. Abell, whose personal identity was so carefully kept from the public gaze as Mr. Abell studiously kept his own. On public questions he was absolutely fearless in matters he thought right, and having with calmness and judgment arrived at his own conclusions, he made his ideas felt and respected by reason of their force and common sense. With no personal wishes to be gratified in the political world, with no friends to reward nor enemies to punish politically, he directed the columns of *The Sun* for what he felt to be the best interest of the community, irrespective of party or men. His only wish was to serve the State as he honestly thought it should be served, by proper recommendations in legislation and in the conduct of public service. Apart from the public welfare, but three interests engaged Edwin F. Abell's attention—the affairs of *The Sun*, his father's estate, and his home circle. Although a member of the Athenæum, the Maryland and Country clubs, he cared little for club or even for social life, beyond the environment of his own hearthstone, preferring to entertain friends in his home, free from conventionality, and in accordance with the hospitality inspired by a warm and generous heart.

As he loved all that was beautiful in nature and his fellow men, so Mr. Abell loved instinctively the inspiring creations of man's brain and hands. In art his taste was keenly discriminating and his judgment remarkably correct for one who had received no professional training along artistic lines. He studied works of art through eyes that instinctively eliminated the gross or rude, and turned only to that which was beautiful in character and where true artistic merit was revealed.

As a judge of real estate, Edwin F. Abell had few equals. His long experience in the management of his father's property gave him opportunity to exercise his excellent judgment in purchases and improvements. Foreseeing that Baltimore, like other cities, might be visited by a great conflagration, he erected *The Sun's* emergency building at the southwest corner of Calvert and Saratoga streets, which proved a timely refuge when the Great Fire

of February 7th and 8th, 1904, swept the "Sun Iron Building" out of existence and destroyed the most valuable portion of the commercial section of Baltimore. Mr. Abell was confined to his residence by illness when the fire occurred, and the shock occasioned by the calamity, and especially the destruction of the "Sun Iron Building," is considered to have hastened his death. The ruin of so large a portion of the business properties of Baltimore was a deep grief to him, aside from his personal losses, as many of the improvements that other real estate owners had made in years gone by were the result of his suggestion and practical advice.

A devoted personal friend of his editorial staff, writing of Mr. Edwin F. Abell at the time of his death, paid him, perhaps, as exquisite a tribute of love and reverence as one man has ever inspired in the breast of another. It gains additional lustre from the fact that it but expressed the feeling of many others whose hands Mr. Abell clasped, whose faces he knew, for whom, in daily life, he made way in unfailing courtesy. The friend writes:

"A pathetic circumstance seemed to link the life of the last of the sons of the founder of *The Sun* with the home which his father had built for it, and which it had occupied for half a century. But a mere youth when the "Sun Iron Building," at the southeast corner of Baltimore and South streets was erected, it had become intimately associated with Edwin Franklin Abell's whole life and with the lives of many others—relatives, friends, business associates—whom he deeply loved, and many of whom had passed away from this world, but never for an instant from his loving and loyal heart. To a man of such unusually sympathetic nature and tender thoughts and memories connected with the building swept away by the fire of 1904, invested it with a sentiment that was almost sacred, and raised it far above its material aspect or mere business uses. Thus the calamity which destroyed it and so much of the city that was dear to him came with crushing force to an already enfeebled system, and helped to hasten the end.

"The eldest of the twelve children of Mr. A. S. Abell, and the last of his sons, Edwin F. Abell, inherited to a marked degree the sagacity, intellectual poise and sound business judgment of his father. His extraordinary modesty and dislike of prominence kept him from the public gaze, but his close friends and those associated with him in business knew and estimated at their high value his unusual mental qualities. In the conduct of *The Sun*, during the time its management was in his hands, it was his chief concern to be always true to those high principles which his father had laid down for his guidance. With a high sense of the duties and responsibilities of the newspaper publisher, and a conscientious regard for the public welfare, right was always the determining factor in his decisions of important questions of local or general character, rather than mere expediency or monetary advantage. The first point to be decided, he

always held, was, what is the right thing to do and what is the course most conducive to the true interests of the community, the State and the nation. His high journalistic standards, like *The Sun*, were his inheritance and his pride, and there was nothing on earth that could induce him to divorce the one from the other. With rare insight into character and keen powers of observation, he possessed an almost instinctive faculty of seeing into the heart of a proposition or situation, and estimating the merits and consequences of a particular course or policy. From the standpoint of a newspaper proprietor and manager, he was in every sense a worthy successor of the father and brother whose characters he held in such reverence and pride. Such an example is an inspiration and a stimulus, and can never pass away, but will continue now and always to make its daily moral impress upon *The Sun* and to exercise a potent and controlling influence in its future management.

"Of the beauty and nobility of Edwin F. Abell's private character, it is difficult for those who knew him well to speak in moderation. There were none, indeed, so blind in spirit or so dull in heart who could come into his kindly presence without feeling the elevating influence of a nature whose first principle was love and benevolence toward all living things—a nature which was based upon an inborn Golden Rule of life, not reluctantly nor as a duty, but freely and gladly, as if generosity and kindness were the highest privilege and pleasure—an essential part of his very existence itself, without which nothing would have been worth while to him. To most of humanity who live on the levels or in the valleys the Sermon on the Mount speaks from afar and only as an echo. Edwin F. Abell lived on the beautiful heights from which that divine message came, and his natural atmosphere was that in which those words of peace and love were breathed. A soul made veritably in God's image looked out through loving eyes upon the world, seeking always and everywhere to add to the comfort and happiness of all with whom he came in contact. To those who had the privilege of knowing him intimately it will not seem extravagance, but simply truth, to say there was a benediction in his handclasp, an inspiration to better things in his mere daily greeting. With a broad democracy that comes from a sense of justice, he knew no distinction of wealth or so-called social rank among men or women, but was as courteous and considerate to the poorest and meanest as to the richest and most powerful. The poor and suffering received from him more than material help—the earnest sympathy of a heart that was touched with deep feeling for all human sorrow and distress. These will be numbered with many others who will miss him keenly—a great host to whom he ministered so quietly and unostentatiously that few but himself knew the extent of his benefactions—and they will rise up at the last, and from their heart of hearts will call him blessed. If he prayeth best who loveth best, his life was one of the noblest of prayers, the embodiment of that charity that thinketh no evil, and that suffereth long and is kind. There was no room in his great soul for malice or ill-will. He would not permit malicious gossip in his presence, if he could prevent it, and no matter of what repute the person under discussion might be, he would always interpose with some kindly remark or word of defense suggesting better traits and qualities than had been ascribed. All tributes to himself, to his own generosity and goodness were quietly but firmly suppressed by him. Simple as a child in his tastes and feelings, he loved truly all simple and natural things—little children, plain, unaffected people, country sights and sounds—everything that was near to God and nature's heart. The truest and noblest of gentlemen, in the best and highest sense of the word, loyal, loving and princely in traits that mark the real royalty of manhood, the community and State lost in him a

type of citizenship more important to civic greatness and moral permanence than any other they could possess."

Edwin F. Abell's death, occurring, as it did, as an almost immediate consequence of the conflagration of 1904, was regarded by his fellow citizens as one of the first and most lamentable results of that tragic event. The General Assembly of Maryland ordered resolutions to be spread on its journal to the effect that Mr. Abell, through his management of *The Sun*, had labored effectively for the uplift of the State, while the house of delegates declared that, in losing Mr. Edwin F. Abell, the State had lost one of its foremost citizens. Both branches of the city council passed resolutions of respect and honor and deplored his death as a distinct loss to the city, and doubly a loss at a time when his clear judgment, ripe experience and distinguished patriotism were peculiarly needed for the restoration of Baltimore.

Edwin Franklin Abell was twice married; (first) to Margaret Curley, a daughter of the late Henry R. Curley, and (second) to Elizabeth M. Laurenson, daughter of the late Francis B. Laurenson, who survives him. His children by his first marriage were two sons: Arunah S. Abell, who married Anna Schley; and W. W. Abell, unmarried; one daughter: Mary Abell, wife of Dr. James Dudley Morgan, of Washington, D. C. Arunah S. Abell and W. W. Abell were associated with their father in the conduct of *The Sun* for a number of years, and, upon the death of Edwin F. Abell, his second son, W. W. Abell, was elected president of the A. S. Abell Company and manager of the paper. The Sunday edition of *The Sun* was inaugurated under Mr. Edwin F. Abell's administration, the first edition being issued October 6, 1901.

By the people of the South, Edwin F. Abell's death was regretted almost as deeply as by the citizens of his own State. He was regarded as a safe and steadfast champion of the South's inherited rights, her best traditions and material welfare, and Southern men in rural districts said his views and interpretation of public affairs had become a part of their ethics. It was said by many that, while his death was a great loss to his family, it was an even greater loss to his fellow men.

Mr. Abell's death was announced in all the Baltimore churches Sunday morning, February 28th, and his funeral took place from the Cathedral, Wednesday, March 2d, and was attended by the chief dignitaries of State and city. The great building was thronged to its fullest capacity with a multitude of sorrowing people that included rich and poor, high and low. Cardinal James Gibbons delivered an impressive memorial address, and a pontifical high mass of requiem was celebrated by Bishop A. A. Curtis. The interment was made at Bonnie Brae Cemetery, and the honorary pallbearers were chosen from those who had been longest in the service of *The Sun*, and from the heads of the departments of the paper.

GEORGE W. ABELL

In every land where freedom of the press prevails, the "Fourth Estate" is a power to be reckoned with, and the editor's sanctum is the seat of an authority not inferior to that of kings. The leading journalists of the United States during the last century were, to a great degree, the arbiters of our national destiny. Greeley, Raymond, Dana and others—their great shades emerge from the mists which already begin to envelop the mid-decades of the nineteenth century. And, although the stirring times which called forth the powers of these editors of the past have now become matter of history, the new age has demands of its own, and to meet these demands men have been raised up whose talents and influence are not inferior to those of their predecessors. Foremost among these journalists of the recent past was the late George William Abell, who built up the *Baltimore Sun* to be one of the few representative papers of the United States. Mr. Abell has left a name in his profession greater than even that of his distinguished father, the founder of the paper, the latter having been more of a business man than a journalist, while George William Abell is regarded by many as the greatest newspaper man of his time.

Mr. Abell was born December 21, 1842, in Baltimore. He was the second son of Arunah Shepherdson and Mary (Fox-Campbell) Abell, and received his preparatory education at Dalrymple's School, whence he passed to the University of Maryland, graduating with highest honors, June 21, 1861. He took up the study of law, and on December 17, 1864, was admitted to the Baltimore bar, but, after spending two years in the office of Charles J. Gwinn, decided to make journalism rather than law the work of his life. He therefore entered the counting-room of *The Sun*, and thence passed into the news and editorial departments. He was identified with all the improvements, developments and enterprises of the paper from the time he entered its service until the day of his death, a period of nearly thirty years. His legal studies were always of great advantage to him, and for many years he was his father's confidential attorney. After the death of Mr. A. S. Abell, and of his third son, Walter R. Abell, the

A. S. Abell Company was incorporated, August 9, 1892, at which time George William Abell was elected president and manager, which offices he continued to hold for the remainder of his life.

While sharing fully with his brother, Edwin F. Abell, other serious and manifold responsibilities pertaining to his father's large estate, the more active and immediate management of *The Sun*, by mutual agreement between the brothers, devolved upon George William Abell. He brought to his office not only the experience acquired under his father's instruction, but the most generous enthusiasm and the noblest and loftiest conception of the mission of a great newspaper, and the duty to the public of the editor and publisher of such a paper. He upheld the high standard set by his father, ever excluding from the columns of his journal news of a sensational or impure character. Realizing the influence and power of *The Sun*, he held his high office as a trust, bringing to the discharge of its duties all the results of his ripe and varied experience and his careful observation, together with the manifold resources of his cultured and judicial mind, wielding an influence all the more potent for the reason that it was moral no less than political, and exercised for the public weal rather than for personal ends.

Mr. Abell was greatly admired and beloved by the men with whom he was associated in the management of *The Sun*. Each day he conferred briefly with the heads of departments, after which he withdrew from the office for the day. He had the reputation, well deserved, of transacting an enormous amount of business in a short time, possessing in an eminent degree that power which is more of a gift than an acquisition—the ability to do two or three things at once, and do them all well. Not Mr. Abell's brilliant talents alone, however, but the exceptional generosity and kindness of his nature, serve to keep his memory green among those still serving upon the paper. Many and affectionate are the stories that cluster about his administration. Said an old compositor of *The Sun*: "Mr. George Abell spoke his mind without reserve; he found fault when there was fault to find, but he never parted from you without a word of commendation for some good work you had done, that took all sting from his reproof."

There is a story that Mr. Abell once met in the street, on a cold winter day, one of the young men employed upon the paper, who, notwithstanding the weather, had no overcoat. Upon inquiring the cause, he learned that the lad possessed no such luxury, and he instantly ordered him to a tailor to be supplied with an overcoat at his employer's expense. Another anecdote relates how, when a complete edition was hopelessly wrecked between the composing room and the presses, and the pride of the publishers was deeply humiliated, Mr. Abell's only question was, "Has anybody been hurt?" When assured that no one had been injured, he made no further reference to the mishap.

Mr. Abell was a loyal and loving son to Baltimore and to Maryland, having deeply at heart what he conceived to be the best interests of both. His opinions might differ from those of others, but the very earnestness with which he defended his own views proceeded from the sincerity of his conviction that they were right. He was absolutely without malice or any feeling of personal hostility toward those from whom he differed, and whose conduct in public affairs he felt it his duty to criticise and oppose. He was distinguished throughout his career for public spirit, devotion to principle, courage and unselfishness. It was in consequence of his liberal disposition and at his suggestion that "The Sun Almanac" was first issued in 1876, and he encouraged and stimulated every step in its subsequent publication, realizing that it was an exceedingly useful and practical compilation, and satisfied a public want. It was his desire to make the book not merely a chronicle of the year, but, through its agency, to foster interest in and appreciation of the history of the State, and to make widely known the varied resources and advantages of Maryland.

Mr. Abell married, November 29, 1871, Jane Frances, daughter of the late George W. Webb, and three children were born to them: Charles Shepherdson; Jennie M., wife of Francis Theodore Homer, of Baltimore; and Annie, who died in childhood.

In addition to his town house, Mr. Abell was the owner of a country residence, built shortly before his death, at Sherwood, Maryland, and called "The Ridge." He was of a strongly domestic nature, devoted to his home and family, and in disposi-

tion singularly unassuming, content to do good without claiming or receiving the credit of his kindly acts. He shrank from praise which most men would have coveted, and in all his actions in reference to public affairs, as well as in his many private charities, his chief desire was that his left hand should not know the good his right hand was doing. His happiness seemed to consist in making others happy. In appearance Mr. Abell was an exceptionally handsome man, of Saxon type—blue eyes, fair hair and ruddy complexion—with a bearing of singular distinction, and manners at once affable and dignified. In all his personal relations he was loyalty itself, betraying no trust that was ever reposed in him, and the number of his friends was legion.

In 1888 Mr. Abell visited Europe with his family, and was to have gone abroad again three days before his death, which occurred after a brief illness, May 1, 1894, at his home in Baltimore. The removal of this gifted and lovable man while in the prime of life was mourned with the deepest sincerity by both high and low. It is not a matter of marvel that his memory is enshrined in the hearts of all who knew him, and remains as a blessed benediction to those who were his friends and associates while he was still an active factor in the affairs of the world.

The loss which Baltimore sustained by the removal of such a man is well-nigh incalculable. But his "works follow him." A monument reared by his own genius commemorates him—the great journal of which he was for so many years the heart and soul, which he might almost be said to have created—still addresses its vast and constantly increasing audiences. "The pen is mightier than the sword." If any doubt this, let him consider the life and work of George William Abell.

CHARLES SHEPHERDSON ABELL

Charles Shepherdson Abell, one of the owners of *The Sun*, former vice-president of the A. S. Abell Company, and manager of *The Sun* from April 19, 1909, to January, 1910, is now the owner of the *Norfolk Landmark*, and president of the Norfolk Landmark Publishing Company.

Mr. Abell is the only son of the late George William and Jane Frances (Webb) Abell, and grandson of Arunah Shepherdson Abell, founder of *The Baltimore Sun*. He was educated at private and public schools in Baltimore, and at Harvard University. He is married and has four children: George W., Charles S., Francis L., and Elizabeth C. Abell.

Mr. Abell has been a director of the A. S. Abell Company since that company's incorporation, August 9, 1892, and has been most of that time an officer. He proved his inherited efficiency as a newspaper director in the brief period of his unaided management of *The Sun*. As the head of the paper Mr. Abell displayed marked ability, untiring application, indefatigable energy, and the keen interest which is the foundation of successful endeavor. As an executive, Mr. Abell possesses the same rare qualities of unaffected simplicity of manner, combined with entire dignity, that characterized his father and grandfather in their relations with their employees and the public.

Mr. Abell retired as an officer of the A. S. Abell Company to purchase the *Norfolk Landmark*, one of the most influential and best-known papers of the South. He assumed control of it as president and general manager of the Norfolk Landmark Publishing Company on June 1, 1910. Mr. Abell's initial announcement in *The Landmark* was to the effect that the paper should be conducted in the future as it had been in the past, along considerate, conservative and independent lines, and that its policy would be that of the *Baltimore Sun*, as declared in the editorial in the first issue of that newspaper when it was founded in 1837, by Arunah Shepherdson Abell.

WALTER ROBERT ABELL

Walter Robert Abell, third son of Arunah Shepherdson and Mary (Fox-Campbell) Abell, and one of the proprietors of *The Sun*, was born on February 11, 1849, and died in Baltimore, January 3, 1891. Upon the death of his father, who was the founder of *The Sun*, Walter R. Abell, in conjunction with his two brothers, Edwin Franklin and George William Abell, became the proprietors of *The Sun*, and continued to conduct the paper with the same success that had characterized it during the lifetime of A. S. Abell.

Walter R. Abell inherited the literary tastes of his father, but his gifts were developed along scholastic rather than journalistic lines. He was a brilliantly educated and highly cultivated man, having been sent when quite a youth, with his brother Charles, to Mt. St. Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Maryland. His education was continued at Georgetown University, where he graduated with high honors. He devoted much of his time to European travel and literary pursuits, and was a constant contributor to the columns of *The Sun*, as well as a writer of distinction in verse.

He inherited the physical vigor and distinguished appearance characteristic of the men of the Abell family, and was an ardent advocate of outdoor sports, in which he personally participated. He also shared, with other members of the Abell family, a strong love of home, and his happiest hours were spent in the home circle and in contributing to the development and happiness of his children. The memory of his upright life remains as a benediction to those who were his associates, and he was numbered among the representative and honored men of Baltimore.

Walter Robert Abell resided at 223 West Monument street, and it was in this house he died. He is buried in Greenmount Cemetery.

Mr. Abell was twice married. His first wife was Sallie Sisson, daughter of the late Hugh Sisson, of Baltimore, and his second wife, whom he married June 6, 1889, was Philomena M. Bogue, daughter of Henry Bogue, who survives him. Mr. Abell's children by his first wife, three in number, are:

1. Marie Louise Abell, who married Joseph F. Edwards, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She was educated at Mt. de Sales Academy, near Catonsville, and is an exceptionally charming and cultivated woman. Joseph F. Edwards is a son of the late Dr. Joseph F. Edwards, and grandson of George W. Edwards, a leading financier of Philadelphia.

2. Sallie Abell, who married Moncure Robinson, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Moncure Robinson, of Baltimore. She was educated at Mt. de Sales Academy, near Baltimore, and upon graduation received the highest honors of the school. Mrs. Robinson possesses great personal magnetism, has an unusual gift for music and languages, and is now a resident of Philadelphia.

3. Walter R. Abell, unmarried, received his preliminary education at Mt. St. Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Maryland, and concluded his course of educational training at Holy Cross University, South Bend, Indiana. Mr. Abell was associated with *The Sun* during the administrations of his cousins, W. W. Abell and Charles S. Abell, and won for himself the affection and respect of all his business associates. He possesses a genial manner and kindness of disposition which attracts warm and lasting friendships. In person he is strikingly like his father.



Very truly Yours,
A. S. Abell.

ARUNAH S. ABELL

The history of the Abell family of Baltimore is closely connected with the history of *The Baltimore Sun*, of which Arunah Shepherdson Abell was the organizer and one of the proprietors, and the ancestral history of the family will be found in the sketches of Arunah Shepherdson Abell and Edwin Franklin Abell, grandfather and father of the subject of this sketch.

Arunah Shepherdson Abell, the second to bear this honored name, was born at Pikesville, Baltimore county, Maryland, eldest son of Edwin Franklin and Margaret (Curley) Abell. From his earliest youth he was of a robust constitution, and exceedingly fond of athletic sports and country life in general. He enjoyed the advantages of an excellent education, being first a student at Mt. St. Mary's College at Emmitsburg, Maryland, and then at Georgetown University, Washington, D. C.

Mental activity has always been a distinguishing trait of the members of the Abell family, and Mr. Abell was no exception to this rule. He immediately sought and found occupation in the business department of *The Baltimore Sun*, and when this was incorporated as the A. S. Abell Company, he was elected a director, holding the offices of secretary and treasurer, in both of which positions his executive ability is still beneficially felt. A detailed history of *The Baltimore Sun* has been incorporated in the sketch of Arunah Shepherdson Abell, the elder, and can be found as mentioned above.

Mr. Abell married, June 22, 1892, Anna T. Schley, and has seven children. He is devoted to his home and family, finding there the greatest pleasures of his life, and the greater part of the year is spent in the country in the vicinity of his city home, as he wishes his children to have the benefit of the country life he so richly enjoyed in his own youth. While Mr. Abell takes no active part in the political affairs of his country, he is by no means indifferent to the outcome of affairs, and gives his staunch support to the principles of the Democratic party. His religious affiliations are with the Roman Catholic Church, of which he is a member. Mr. Abell has always evinced a decided love of nature and natural objects, but the beauties of art have also appealed to

him in a very strong manner, as is amply testified by the collection of pictures and other works of art which is to be found in his homes. Of a high standard of intellectuality, it is but natural that he should have acquired in the course of time an extensive library of the choicest and best selected literature, this being one of the charms which make his home such an attractive one. In the midst of these refined surroundings, the home life is an almost ideal one and one which is not frequently found. Mr. Abell is a contributor to numerous benevolent undertakings, and his charity is always bestowed in an unostentatious manner.



W. W. Hull

WALTER WILLIAM ABELL

Walter William Abell, one of the owners of *The Sun*, and president of the A. S. Abell Company from June 21, 1904, to April 19, 1909, is the youngest son of the late Edwin Franklin and Margaret (Curley) Abell, and a grandson of A. S. Abell, founder of *The Sun*. He was born February 28, 1872, at "Litterluna," a family country estate near Pikesville, Baltimore county, Maryland, and was educated in private schools and at Georgetown University.

Interested in business matters, Mr. Abell began his career with the National Marine Bank of Baltimore, where he remained for about a year and a half, and later divided with his father the administrative business affairs of *The Sun*. Upon Edwin F. Abell devolved not only the management of the paper, but of the A. S. Abell estate, in which the interests of all the descendants of A. S. Abell, founder of *The Sun*, were involved.

About a year after the death of George William Abell, in 1894, Edwin F. Abell gradually committed to W. W. Abell's hands the active management of *The Sun* so that the latter entered upon his newspaper career with grave responsibilities but with a wise counsellor during the first years of his administration. W. W. Abell became a member of the board of directors of the A. S. Abell Company on June 15, 1894, was elected vice-president on June 6, 1901, was elected president June 21, 1904, and resigned as president on April 19, 1909.

The same affection that existed between the brothers, Edwin F. and George William Abell, exists between Mr. Edwin F. Abell's two sons, Arunah S. and W. W. Abell.

The death of Edwin F. Abell, and the election of W. W. Abell as president of the A. S. Abell Company, placed the latter in full charge of the affairs of *The Sun*, and at a time when his executive ability and his emotions were taxed to an exceptional degree. Edwin F. Abell's death occurred while the great conflagration of February 7 and 8, 1904, yet spread its pall of smoke over the ashes of the "Sun Iron Building," and the business portion of Baltimore, and W. W. Abell carried the double burden of ministering to a dying father and directing the affairs of *The Sun*

during a crisis of calamity unequaled in the annals of Baltimore. When the building was aflame, Mr. Abell made a rapid inspection from floor to floor. When he reached the basement he found George H. Whitney, chief engineer, whom he persuaded to leave before it was too late. Mr. Abell and Mr. Whitney were the last to leave the building before it was consumed. It was he who, during the conflagration, supervised the removal of the records, the valuable library, the ancient files of *The Sun*, from the fire-encircled "Sun Iron Building" to the emergency building, southwest corner of Saratoga and Calvert streets, and to other places of safety. At the same time he directed the several departments of the paper, whose staffs continued at their posts with military discipline and courage until tongues of flame literally drove them from the edifice. It was to the late Edward Crummer, business manager of *The Sun*, that Mr. Abell gave credit for suggesting the *Washington Star* building from which to print the paper in this emergency, and through the courtesy of *The Star* the presses and buildings of that paper were placed at the disposal of *The Sun*, and when work could no longer be continued upon the Monday issue in the fire-swept "Sun Iron Building," the staff withdrew by special train to Washington and there continued the printing of the paper. It is the boast of *The Sun* that without interruption of a single issue the paper passed through a crisis that temporarily suspended the publication of every newspaper in Baltimore whose plant lay in the path of the conflagration. *The Sun* was issued for two months from the building of the *Washington Evening Star*, with business headquarters at the Bureau of *The Sun* in Washington, and the emergency building in Baltimore. On April 7, 1904, the entire staff returned to Baltimore, and the paper continued to be issued from the emergency building until the A. S. Abell Company took formal possession, November 17, 1906, of the magnificent newspaper building at the corner of Charles and Baltimore streets. This edifice is regarded as one of the finest and most perfectly equipped newspaper buildings in the world. The extensive real estate holdings of the Abell estates allowed several selections of location and following the westward trend of Baltimore business development, the A. S. Abell Company chose as a site for the new Sun Building the

southwest corner of Charles and Baltimore streets, belonging to the Edwin F. Abell estate, a point which is regarded as the exact center, geographically and in a business sense, of the city. Owing to the fact that the A. S. Abell Company owns the entire facing on Charles street upon which *The Sun* office is located, by municipal order the intersection of Baltimore street and Charles street is now known as "Sun Square." The responsibility of selecting designs and supervising the erection of this edifice, which extends from Baltimore to German streets, fell upon Mr. W. W. Abell, who threw himself into the task with the energy and untiring attention to details, small and great, that is distinctive of his personality.

2042584

The new *Sun* office building is of French Renaissance style of architecture, fronts 52 feet 9 inches on Baltimore street, 201 feet 9 inches on Charles street, and 52 feet 7½ inches on German street, with entrances from three sides. It is ninety feet high on Charles street, with a sloping roof extending above and back of the parapet wall. The heights of the different stories are: basement eighteen feet, first floor twenty feet, second story sixteen feet, third story seventeen feet, and fourth story fourteen feet from floor to ceiling. The design of the building is simple, dignified and bold. It is distinctively original and particularly adapted to the uses for which it is designed. The architectural scheme consists principally of a plain heavy base, which is the first story, surmounted by a massive Ionic colonnade which in turn is crowned by a bold and dignified entablature and parapet wall. The main colonnade on Charles street is flanked at each end by a pavilion which is crowned by a clock dial on top, and contains an important entrance in the center at the bottom. The plain sub-base below the first story window-sills is of light gray Maryland granite, all above this being best quality selected Bedford Indiana limestone. The massive Ionic columns which form the feature of the building, are thirty-two feet high, and three feet eight inches in diameter, there being twenty-four of these columns in all. Between these columns are handsome plate glass windows in one large metal frame averaging twelve feet in width and thirty-two feet in height. At the line of the third floor with these frames, are carved ornamental balustrades of wrought iron.

The principal entrances are on the northeast corner of the building, and each crowned with a bold stone hood supported on ornamental brackets, and the cove above the main entrance is enriched with a garland of fruits and flowers. At the crown of the keystone over each opening on the first floor is carved a sun-flower about eighteen inches in diameter.

The counting-room, which is located at Baltimore and Charles streets, is exceptionally artistic and beautiful. It is forty-eight feet square, with a sixteen-foot gallery extending across and overlooking the spacious main room. The floors are of Vermont white marble, with a border of gray Tennessee marble. The walls are wainscoted to the tops of the window-sills with marble, and the large circular counter in the center of the room is constructed entirely of selected Pavanazzo marble supported on a base of verde antique marble. A seven-foot-wide stairway of the same marble leads to the gallery and the second floor. The counting-room is lighted by cut-glass globes suspended from the ceiling, and ornamental torches supported against the pilasters. On each side of the outside of each street entrance to this room is a massive lamp made sufficiently bold to harmonize with the bold exterior of the building. All of these fixtures are of solid statuary bronze. The building is fireproof throughout, is heated by steam, and lighted by electricity generated by a plant in the basement. Messrs. Baldwin & Pennington, architects, of Baltimore, designed and supervised the construction of the building.

As president and manager of the A. S. Abell Company, Mr. W. W. Abell displayed the wise judgment that results from matters being thoughtfully weighed and definitely decided, and possessed to a remarkable degree the courage of his convictions. He proved himself a man of eminent justice to the public and individual friends, and during his administration *The Sun* won several signal victories in directing public opinion in matters of political importance.

Mr. Abell has traveled extensively in the United States and in Europe, and resigned the management of *The Sun* on April 19, 1909, to make an unhurried journey around the world. He visited England, Scotland, France, Germany, Russia, Austria, Hungary, Servia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Roumania, Italy, Algeria,

Tunis, Egypt as far as Khartoum, Ceylon, India, Burmah, China and Japan. Before going abroad, Mr. Abell resigned as a director of the National Marine Bank and the Eutaw Savings Bank. During his absence he was appointed, April, 1910, by Governor Crothers, one of the three members of the Public Service Commission created by the Maryland Legislature of 1910, but Mr. Abell cabled his refusal of this office from Japan.

